GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
TRAIN ACCIDENTS
Murmu Shri Hemlal;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents which occurred in the country since July, 2006;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured as a result thereof alongwith loss of properties suffered, accident- wise;

(c) the compensation/ex-gratia relief paid to the relatives of those killed and to the injured, accident- wise;

(d) the prima-facie cause of each accident;

(e) whether inquiries have been conducted by the Railways to ascertain the exact cause of such accidents;

(f) if so, the details and outcome thereof and the action taken thereon, accident-wise; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to avert such accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF THE STARRED QUESTION No. 34 BY S/SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH AND HEMLAL MURMU TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 23.11.2006 REGARDING TRAIN ACCIDENTS.

(a) to (f) : There have been 80 consequential train accidents on Indian Railways during the period from July 2006 to October 2006, in which 72 persons lost their lives and 61 sustained injuries. Loss of railway property on account of these accidents has been estimated to be Rs.12.78 crores. A sum of Rs. 1,05,000/- as ex-gratia has been paid in cases where admissible. Compensation, however, shall be payable after the claim cases are filed and awarded by the claim tribunals. However, Rs.8,23,640/- has been paid to the two railway employees under 'Worksmen Compensation Act'. Further, Rs.1,70,000/- have been paid as relief money on humanitarian ground as a special case in the unmanned level crossing accident on Southern Railway which took place on 31.10.2006.

Out of these 80 accidents, 5 cases are being enquired into by the respective Commissioners of Railway Safety and in case of remaining 75, departmental enquiry committees were constituted. Depending on finding of the enquiry reports, so far finalized in 65 cases, action as warranted is in progress including punitive action under Discipline and Appeal Rules against those found responsible. Accident wise details are at Annexure.

(g): All possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents. These measures include timely replacement of over aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of accidents from 473 in 2000-01 to 234 in 2005-06. In the current financial year, from April to October 2006, the number of consequential train accidents has been 137 as against 141 during the corresponding period of last year.